RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF ULVERSTON.

...TRY OF HEA...
...LIBRARY

Annu...

Please ...
possible
m
S...

ANNUAL

REPORT

Of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF

HEALTH,

FOR THE YEAR 1937.

ULVERSTON:
KITCHIN & CO., PRINTERS, 7 MARKET STREET.
1938.

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ULVERSTON.

ANNUAL

REPORT

Of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF

HEALTH,

FOR THE YEAR 1937.

ULVERSTON:
KITCHIN & CO., PRINTERS, 7 MARKET STREET.
1938.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b30200441

RURAL DISTRICT OF ULVERSTON.

Town Hall,
Ulverston,
April, 1938.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report which deals with the Health and Sanitary condition of the District, over which I have the supervision as your Medical Officer of Health.

INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

In my report to the Public Health Committee Meeting in January last, I mentioned that Mr. Hudson, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, was laid up with an attack of Influenza and was likely to be away from duty for some time. Unfortunately other troubles have intervened, and my hope that he would be restored to a reasonable state of health has not materialised, and although there has been some improvement in his condition, it has not been sufficient to enable him to return to his work. Calls have been made upon his knowledge of the District from time to time, which have been very helpful to the new Officers of my Department. I hope he will be able to assist us in the future.

Changes have taken place in the personnel of the Public Health Department, which, for a time, upsets the routine work, but, on the whole, I think we may flatter ourselves that there has been very satisfactory progress.

WATER SUPPLY.

GENERALLY.—In spite of the fact that the rainfall of the District was 12 inches below that of 1936, there was never any necessity to restrict the use of water, even from our small supplies, and the quality has always been beyond question. There have been complaints as to the inadequate pressure, at some of the higher levels, especially the Village of Allithwaite, but I am hopeful that these complaints will cease when the Grange Council have installed their new nine-inch main from High Newton to Merlwood.

ALDINGHAM (Roosebeck and Newbiggin).—The Barrow Corporation have laid a four-inch main from Rampside to their boundary at Whitehall, and there should now be no reason for further delay in negotiating for terms for an extension of the main to supply Roosebeck, the Coast Road, and Newbiggin. The need for a supply has been emphasized during the recent storms and high tides, when most of the existing wells have been so contaminated by sea water as to be unfit to use. And another advantage would be that it would be possible to further extend the main to Aldingham Hall, which having been converted into a Convalescent Home, is in need of an increased supply, and if this were done, the lessened draught on the old main would assist the Villages of Scales and Baycliff to a better supply.

It is proposed to lay a four-inch main from Redmayne Hall to connect with the Aldingham main near Skeldon Moor. The necessity for this arises from the increased draught on the mains by the new houses erected on Birkrigg.

CARTMEL.—An extension of the main to Raven Winder Farm has been carried out during the year.

COLTON (Oxen Park and Bandrake Head).—On the 12th of August last an Inspector from the Ministry of Health held an Inquiry into the Council's request for a loan to carry out a Scheme for a Water Supply to Oxen Park and Bandrake Head. The Ministry have delayed their decision until the Council has settled the question of the extension of the supply to the Village of Bouth. The Sub-Committee considered this suggestion and decided that the Ministry should be informed that there was no intention of carrying a main to Bouth, as they felt that this village could be better supplied by an extension of the proposed Lakeside main. I trust that a final reply will shortly be received from the Ministry, and that this very necessary scheme will proceed.

COLTON (Lakeside and Finsthwaite).—The Ministry's Inquiry into this Scheme was held on the 12th August last, and as a result of their Inspector's report, the Ministry refuse to give their sanction to the scheme, especially seeing that the bacteriological examination of the water gives an unsatisfactory result. They were also influenced in their decision on account of the very stringent terms upon which the Council was allowed to abstract the water from High Dam. They therefore suggest that the Council should revert to their original idea of taking their supply from Bortree Tarn, and with this in mind the Surveyor has been asked to get out a scheme, and it is to be hoped that whatever source of supply is finally adopted, work may commence as soon as possible, to avoid the repetition of the inconvenience of another dry Summer.

BLAWITH.—An amended scheme for the gravitation supply to the village of Blawith and surrounding district has been submitted to a Sub-Committee by your Engineer for their approval. The water will be abstracted from the Tarn Beck

and after supplying the village of Blawith, will be available for extension to High Nibthwaite and Low Nibthwaite, and further extension to connect with the Egton-cum-Newland supply at Lowick Bridge, if such extension should be found necessary.

CLAIFE (Wray).—It may be assumed that since the work of relaying the mains was carried out the supply to consumers has been quite satisfactory, as there have been no complaints.

HAWKSHEAD (Outgate).—As it has not been possible to arrange terms with owners who have the control of available sources of supply, your Engineer has been instructed to consider the possibility of abstracting a supply from Hall Beck, to be raised by hydraulic ram to an elevated tank, from which it would gravitate for the supply of the hamlet. The necessity for an improved supply to this hamlet has been emphasized by the fact that recently the water in one of the wells providing the supply has been found to be severely polluted.

CONISTON.—A length of 210 yards from the reservoir of 6-inch main has been laid, with the result that the pressure has been increased, especially at the higher levels.

PENNINGTON (Swarthmoor).—Your Engineer has repeatedly drawn attention to the unsatisfactory water supply to the village of Swarthmoor and the houses newly erected on the Ulverston Road, due, no doubt, to the greatly increased consumption. A sub-committee was elected to deal with the question. This Committee met at Cross-a-Moor on the 13th July last, and it was resolved, on the advice of the Engineer, that the Clerk negotiate with the Ulverston Urban District Council for permission to connect a main direct to their reservoir. The need for an improved supply is one of urgency, and I trust there may be no further delay.

HIGHFIELD COTTAGES.—So constant were the complaints of want of pressure to the four cottages called Highfield, in the Township of Urswick, that a galvanized tank was provided. The result being a great improvement in the supply.

STAVELEY.—It has been decided to extend the main to the Elementary Day Schools, which rely upon collected roof water for their supply.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

CARTMEL (Allithwaite Lower).—The work of sewering the village of Allithwaite, has, as I predicted last year, been completed.

CONISTON.—A tender has been accepted for another sectional scheme, which takes in Dixon Ground, the Railway Cottages and the Station.

MUCH AND LITTLE URSWICK.—In the year 1898 I first mentioned the question of the provision of a comprehensive scheme for the sewering and sewage disposal of the villages of Much and Little Urswick, and there can be very few of my Annual Reports in which the question has not been touched upon. The necessity for the provision of a comprehensive scheme for the two villages, and the hamlet of Skeldon Moor, has been emphasized by the new houses which have been built on the Hags,and which are now draining into cesspools, a very undesirable method of disposal, and then again, many privies have been converted into water closets, and more will have to be converted, which means that in the near future the tarn will become a large open cesspool. In the past, small sectional schemes have been carried out at Hagg End and Midtown, but these do not get rid of the necessity for further action. The

difficulties may be great on account of an insufficiency of fall, but the necessity is greater and the difficulties must be overcome.

NEWBIGGIN.—I am mentioning the question of providing some better method of dealing with the drainage of the houses forming this hamlet, in the hope that the Council will not lose sight of this necessity.

HIGHFIELD COTTAGES.—In spite of the fact that a sub-committee has considered this question, no progress has been made towards the provision of a drainage scheme for these cottages. It was hoped that an arrangement with the Crown, the owners of Highfield Farm would be reached, but the hope has not been fulfilled. It would appear to me that the only way to arrive at something more definite would be to schedule the four houses for clearance. At present, the conditions are most unsatisfactory.

HOUSING.

We can feel that we have progressed another stage in our housing programme. Twenty-four dwellings were represented in Coniston, 49 in the Kirkby Ireleth area, and 9 at Cross-a-Moor, and 7 at Trinkeld Road, in the Township of Pennington. A Ministry Inquiry was held on the 10th of August, 1937. The Order was confirmed in the case of 21 houses at Coniston, 2 were excluded on the owners undertaking to recondition, and in one case the Order was confirmed subject to payment under Sec. 42. Of the 49 houses represented in the Kirkby district, the Order was confirmed in 36 cases, in six subject to payment under Sec. 42, in seven cases the Order was not confirmed on undertaking of owners to recondition. With regard to the houses in the Township of Pennington, the Order was not confirmed, action to be taken under Sec. 11 of the 1936 Act. The greatest difficulty

seems to be to provide new houses for the displaced population, the building trade is so busy that it is almost impossible to obtain labour and material.

Houses in the village of Hawkshead have been inspected, and as a result of an inspection by a sub-committee of the Council, owners are to have the opportunity of putting their property into habitable condition ; a vain hope to my mind, which will never be gratified, as much of the property can never be provided with the amenities of a decent life.

Housing Statistics for the Year 1937.

Number of new houses erected during the year :-

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	—
(1) By the Local Authority	—
(2) By other Local Authorities	—
(3) By other bodies or persons	55
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :	
(1) By the Local Authority	0
(2) By other bodies or persons	0

1. *Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year* :

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)..	641
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	641

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 —

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.. —

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 40

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 174

(2) *Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notice* :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 102

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the Year* :—

A.—Proceedings under sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 16

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:

(*a*) By owners 39

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners 0

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 151

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :—

(*a*) By owners 16

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners 0

C.—Proceedings under sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .. 0

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 0

D.—Proceedings under section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 0

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit .. 0

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

The Dairies and Cowsheds in your district are the subject of inspection, but, on account of the pressure of other work, the inspections have not been so frequent as I could wish. That there is a desire to produce a milk of better quality is evidenced by the fact that there are now 15 cowkeepers licenced to sell Accredited Milk, and one to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION.

Never before has so much attention been given to the condition of the Slaughter Houses, and to the inspection of meat. We find that the Butchers are generally ready to report and ask for inspection of any carcase showing suspicious signs, and the slaughter-houses are structurally better than many town slaughter-houses, and are well kept.

REFUSE REMOVAL.

This very important department of Sanitary Administration is carried out in a most satisfactory manner, although the burden of cost is a very heavy one. But I cannot think that the mere question of cost would encourage the Authority to abandon the work.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres) 127,485.
Population (1921) 18,523
Population (1931) enumerated 16,719.
Number of inhabited houses, 4,905.
Rateable value, £69,751.
Amount produced by a penny rate, £203.

POPULATION.—I think it will be quite safe to estimate the population as being the same as in 1936.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Rate per 1000
Legitimate ..	179	99	80	
Illegitimate ..	13	6	7	11.4
TOTALS	192	105	87	

In the year 1936 there were 187 births, producing a birth-rate of 11.6 per 1,000.

DISTRIBUTION OF BIRTHS.

	1st quarter		2nd quarter		3rd quarter		4th quarter		Total		Rate per
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	1000
Cartmel ..	7	7	11	5	4	6	2	11	24	29	10.1
Broughton West	9	10	6	2	10	4	7	4	32	20	12.9
Dalton ..	4	1	8	5	8	5	4	7	24	18	12.6
Ulverston ..	4	5	8	3	6	8	7	4	25	20	10.8
Totals	24	23	33	15	28	23	20	26	105	87	11.4

DEATHS.

The total number of deaths occurring in the district was 232, but of these 26 have arisen in non-residents, reducing the deaths of the resident population to 206, but to find the correct number of deaths, 50 must be added for the deaths of residents which have arisen outside the district, the corrected number of deaths, therefore, being 256, producing a death-rate of 15.3. In the year 1936 there were 231 deaths, or 14.4 per 1,000.

DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS.

	1st quarter		2nd quarter		3rd quarter		4th quarter		Totals		Rate per
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	1000
Cartmel ..	12	20	4	11	10	8	14	6	40	45	16.3
Broughton West	11	8	2	9	5	11	12	9	30	37	16.6
Dalton ..	12	6	5	7	3	6	2	7	22	26	14.4
Ulverston ..	9	3	9	3	6	10	9	7	33	23	13.4
Totals	44	37	20	30	24	35	37	29	125	131	15.3

AGE PERIODS AT WHICH THE DEATHS OCCURRED:

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Under 1 year	6	6	12
Between 1 and 65	53	33	86
65 and Upwards	64	94	158
Totals	123	133	256

INFANTILE DEATHS.—By Infantile Deaths we mean the deaths of Infants before they have reached the end of their first year of life, at this age period there have been 12 deaths, which equals an Infantile Death-rate of 62.5 per 1,000 births. In the year 1936 there were 11 Infantile Deaths, producing a rate per 1,000 births of 42.7.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE INFANTILE DEATHS.

	Cartmel.		Broughton West.		Dalton		Ulverston		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Congenital Defects	1	..	1	1	1	1	1	..	4	2
Bronchitis ..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	1
Premature Birth	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	3
Pneumonia ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Totals	1	1	2	3	2	1	1	1	6	6
Rate per 1000 Births	37.5		96.1		71.4		44.4		62.5	

Although there is an increased Infantile Death-rate, the position is quite satisfactory in this respect. It is doubtful, with the exception of the two deaths from Bronchitis, and the one from pneumonia, that it could be said that the deaths were preventable.

TUBERCULOSIS—Appended hereto are tables showing the deaths from Tubercular Diseases of various organs, and the new cases reported.

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.		Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.		Pulmonary Tuberculosis.		Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Cartmel	2	2	2	1	1			
Broughton West	2	1	1	1		2		
Dalton	2		1		1			
Ulverston..	2	5		1	1	1		
Totals	8	8	4	3	3	3		

AGE PERIODS OF NOTIFIED CASES AND DEATHS.

Age—Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
Years.	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1—5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5—10	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
10—15	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
15—20	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
20—25	3	1	..	1	1	1	..	..
25—35	3	4	..	1	..	1	..	..
35—45	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	..
45—55	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
55—65	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	..
65 and upwards	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..
Totals ..	8	8	4	3	3	3	..	..
	16		7		6			

The death-rate for Pulmonary Tuberculosis is 0.30 per 1,000 of the population, there have been no deaths from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. For the Administrative County of

Lancashire, the rate per 1,000 for Pulmonary Tuberculosis being 0.46 ; for the rest of England and Wales, the death-rate is 0.58 per 1,000.

The low death-rate from Tubercular Diseases is a very satisfactory feature of the report, and it must be a great encouragement to those who are working so hard to achieve such excellent results.

CANCER.

DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS.

	Male.	Female.	Total.	Rate per 1000
Cartmel	4	8	12	2.3
Broughton West	2	6	8	1.9
Dalton	2	2	4	1.2
Ulverston	3	6	9	2.1
Totals	11	22	33	1.9

In the year 1936 the Cancer death-rate for the Administrative County of Lancashire was 1.60 per 1,000 of the population ; for the rest of England and Wales, 1.62 per 1,000.

ORGANS AFFECTED AND AGE PERIODS AT WHICH THE DISEASE HAS OCCURRED.

	25-35		35-45		45-55		55-65		65 up.		Total.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Œsophagus	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	..
Stomach	..	..	1	..	1	..	1	1	2	1	5	2
Rectum	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	2	1	3
Breasts	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	2
Gall Bladder	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Vagenia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Intestine	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	4	1	6
Uterus	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Larynax	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Liver	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	3
Pancreas	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Splean	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Bladder	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1	1
Totals	..	..	1	..	2	2	2	4	6	16	11	22

The increase in the number of deaths from the various manifestations of Cancer is a very unsatisfactory feature of my report. This disease seems to raise its head triumphantly above all our efforts to conquer it, nevertheless, we must not give up the struggle, and there is little doubt but that with the intensive research work that is being carried out, we must see an improvement in the future.

ZYMOTIC DEATHS.—There have not been any deaths from diseases of this class.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	Cartmel		Broughton West		Dalton		Ulverston		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Scarlet Fever	8	19	1	1	3	..	7	10	19	30
Diphtheria	3	4	..	1	..	..	..	..	3	5
Pneumonia	3	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	4	2
Erysipelas	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	2	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Ophthalmia	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Totals	15	25	4	3	3	..	7	11	29	39

DIPHTHERIA.—The campaign of immunisation was continued during the year, but our appeal was not very successful, 87 children attending the Cartmel School were treated, and 57 at Allithwaite.

INFLUENZA.—During the year there were 18 deaths from Influenza.

AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Disease.	Total Cases	Under 1	1–2	2–3	3–4	4–5	5–10	10–15	15–20	20–35	35–45	45–65	65 upwards	Cases Removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever ..	49	..	..	4	3	4	21	7	1	7	2	..	..	46	..	..
Diphtheria ..	8	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	2	2	1	..	..	7	..	..
Pneumonia ..	6	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	1	2	2	..	..
Ophthalmia ..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas ..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
																..
Totals	68	1	..	5	3	4	23	8	4	11	4	2	3	56	..	..

LABORATORY WORK.

The Laboratory work of the Council is carried out, chiefly, at the Wigan Infirmary, Pathological Department.

The following examinations have been made :—

Throat Swabs	49
Blood	3
Food	1
	53

All sera are supplied free to Medical Practitioners.

In concluding my report, I must not neglect to express my gratitude to the Council and my Colleagues for their constant co-operation and assistance.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

G. H. PATTERSON.

L.R.C.P. Lond., M.R.C.S. Eng., D.P.H. Lond.

Medical Officer of Health.

20*th April*, 1938.

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ULVERSTON.

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTORS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1937.

	Southern Area.	Northern Area.
Complaints received	36	63
Houses and premises inspected	162	479
Informal notices served	106	45
Statutory notices served	2	13
Cases of over-crowding reported	—	1
Nuisances abated	16	44
Plans approved	92	46
New houses provided with W.C's.	57	25
Houses disinfected after infectious diseases	49	23
Cases of bedding destroyed	—	1
Privy accommodation provided	—	—
Water-closets substituted for privies ..	26	45
Ashpits or middensteads emptied	2290	5609
Removal of accumulations of refuse or other offensive matters	4	19
Drains trapped or repaired	—	26
Orders issued for protection or improvement of water supply	—	12
	lbs	lbs
Weight of Meat and Offal condemned—	5990	4714
Slaughter-houses registered	1	2
Slaughter-houses licensed	11	12
Slaughter-house inspections..	109	321
No. of Bakehouses	6	6
Bakehouses inspected	6	24
Inspections under Factory and Workshops Act	3	26
No. of Dairy Farms	196	172
Approximate number of Cows	2476	2165
Dairies and Cowsheds inspections	123	70
No. of Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk ..	4	—
No. on Register	4	—
Schools disinfected	—	—
No. of Ashbins substituted for fixed receptacles	20	51

T. HUDSON, *Chief Inspector.*

W. J. COOKE,
J. HARRISON, } *Sanitary Inspectors.*